

FAREWELL REMARKS OF  
HONORABLE BOB LIVINGSTON

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my most sincere and hearty congratulations to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) as he embarks on this wonderful opportunity to serve the people of his State and the people of this country in the United States Congress.

I take this opportunity for a slightly different purpose to address the House because this marks my last official day before the House of Representatives after 21½ years. In that time I have had many successes and a few failures, many good times and a few moments of heartache. I have watched with just admiration the many statesmen and I have just watched those who are less so.

I have learned some lessons along the way. Public service is a virtue. Term limits in my opinion is a stupid idea that deprives government of experience and small States of participation in leadership. Tolerance is a necessity. Politician is not a dirty word. And compromise is the glue that renders democracy possible.

To my friends on the left, government left unwatched can lead to injustice. To my friends on the right, government is not inherently evil. Compassion is desired, but in its extreme it will deprive us of our freedom.

My friends, America in the new millennium is like the great forests of the West some 200 years ago. Our ideologues on the left and the right are scouting the terrain and lighting the path to the future. Our trendsetters in both parties survey, decipher and construct the roads and bridges. And the American people follow in waves taking the routes most appropriate for their ultimate destination.

Where are they headed? I cannot say for certain. Ronald Reagan said it was for the shining city on the hill and I certainly will not argue with that. But with commitment to public service, with tolerance and with compromise, I know that the roads to the future of America will be straight and true and headed toward justice and freedom not just for all Americans but for all the people of the world.

I thank the people of southeast Louisiana for allowing me to serve here in the greatest of all institutions, the United States Congress. I thank my colleagues for their great friendship, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I thank my wife Bonnie and my children, Shep and his lovely wife Sissy, Rich, Dave and Susie, and my very new beautiful grandchild Caroline and my parents and all my family for their love and their support through these 21½ wonderful years.

Thank you all and God bless America.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE  
BOB LIVINGSTON

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is ironic that on a day when we are swearing in a new colleague, the House is losing one of its best Members.

I have known the gentleman from Louisiana a long time. He came here a little over 20 years ago. He served as my ranking member on the Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee. We had many differences. But I have to say that never for one moment did I doubt that he felt that he was putting the national interest above every other consideration in dealing with American foreign policy.

I have to say that I think the chances of the peace process moving forward in the Middle East would have been much less without his steadfast commitment to sometimes taking the tough actions on this floor that were necessary to help promote that process. I also have to say that I think that we would not see countries such as Poland and some of the other former East European captives of the Soviet Union, we would not see those countries in nearly the good shape they are in today if it were not for the very active efforts made on a bipartisan basis by the gentleman from Louisiana and his predecessor in that same committee slot, Mickey Edwards.

He served honorably and fairly when he served as my ranking member on the committee. He then succeeded me as chairman of the full committee and again we had very large differences, but we never surprised each other and we learned to trust each other implicitly.

We all have conflicting responsibilities and conflicting loyalties in this place. We have responsibilities to our party, to our country and to our institution. The gentleman from Louisiana in every case that I know of always put those priorities in the right order. He put country first, he put this institution second and he put his party third, and sometimes his own self-interest fourth.

He and his wife Bonnie Livingston have graced this institution with their presence. They are both wonderful people. I will miss them both.

I respect BOB. Sometimes I think he has been off the wall. I am sure he feels the same about me. And sometimes we probably both were. But I also love him. And I especially want to honor him because I think he has demonstrated that the word politician is not a bad name. As John Hume, that great leader for peace in Northern Ireland, said, politics is the alternative that democracies have to war in sorting out and settling our major differences. I think the gentleman from Louisiana has always recognized that. The House has been better for his being here. The House will certainly be lesser for his leaving. I know that BOB and I

are living examples of what Will Rogers meant when he said that if two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary, but nonetheless we have been good friends. I think we can all agree that as BOB leaves this place, we can say that he has indeed been a good and faithful servant.

FAREWELL TO HONORABLE BOB  
LIVINGSTON

(Mr. TAUZIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for those most kind and warm and generous remarks about the gentleman from Louisiana. I know that there are many others who would like to similarly make comments for the record. There is leave to do so. The day before yesterday we held an hour special order to honor and extend our respect and admiration and best wishes to the gentleman from Louisiana on behalf of the people of Louisiana and this grateful Nation. If Members would like to submit words for the record, there is 5-day leave and I would encourage them to do so.

In that special order, we wanted the Nation to know a few very important things about this man. One of them is that he comes from an extraordinary lineage. It was his ancestor of many great degrees back, Robert Livingston, who as Minister to France signed the Louisiana Purchase on behalf of President Jefferson and purchased the territory from which 13 States or parts of States have been carved. Yet with that amazing lineage behind him, BOB LIVINGSTON rose from very humble beginnings. Losing his father at a very early age, his mother nevertheless went to work in a shipyard in Louisiana to raise BOB and his sister and to give them a chance at an education. BOB himself returned to that shipyard to work as he got his own education in his later years.

But BOB's life has been spent in public service. BOB did a stint in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserve. He worked most of his career as a U.S. Justice Department prosecutor in New Orleans as a prosecutor for the criminal court system in New Orleans and for the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana before coming to this body and serving for those 21½ years. He has given his life to public service.

And our State and our Nation are deeply grateful, BOB, for all you have done in your whole life for this country and for the people of our great State of Louisiana. More importantly, BOB LIVINGSTON has been a remarkable legislator in this House of colleagues who all rise to different levels of greatness. BOB LIVINGSTON, acknowledged by many Members of the Committee on Appropriations the other night, is probably the single individual most responsible for finding the consensus in the last 4 years as chairman of the